New Cooking Gas Agency

1990. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Kerala for which advertisements for allocating LPG agencies were made during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications were pending for sanction in the State;

(c) the reasons for delay in the selection of new agencies; and

(d) the number of new agencies proposed to be started during current year and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Forty Sight (48) locations are reported to have been advertised during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to 1996-97 for opening of LPG distributorships in Kerala. Out of these, selection has been made in five cases. The remaining 43 cases are pending for selection.

(c) The delay in selection is on account of non-functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards.

(d) Selections of distributors for the pending proposals are to be taken up as soon as the selection process is reactivated. It normally takes six months to one year to commission an LPG distributorship after the LOI is issued.

[Translation]

Air Service between India and China

1991. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached to have direct air service between India and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions in this regard; and

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) During the bilateral negotiations held in May 1997, an agreement has been reached with China which will enable the designated airlines of each country to operate two flights per week between India and China and beyond to a third country. Air India has no immediate plans to start direct operations between the two countries due to shortage of aircraft capacity. The plans of the Chinese are not known as yet.

[English]

MCLR Aircrafts

1992. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India propose to buy MCLR aircrafts;

(b) if so, when the decision in this regard was taken;

(c) the follow up action; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Air India Board has been advised to take a decision in this regard on a priority basis.

[Translation]

Repairing of Bridges in Uttar Pradesh

1993. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges on National Highways damaged in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Western Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of bridges out of them repaired and the time by which the remaining bridges are likely to be repaired;

(c) the total amount likely to be incurred on the repair of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No. of bridges on National Highways reported damaged during the last three years is as follows :

1994-95	-	3
1995-96	-	3
1996-97	-	1
Total	=	7

Repair works on two bridges are complete. The work on the remaining bridges is targetted for completion by March, 1998.